United Nations S/PV.7712

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7712th meeting
Monday, 13 June 2016, 9. 30 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Delattre	(France)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gimolieca
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Japan	Mr. Okamura
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Ms. Evstigneeva
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2016/452)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

16-16799 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (S/2016/452)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2016/528, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/452, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President (*spoke in French*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2291 (2016).

The meeting rose at 9.35 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7713

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 June 2016

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 7713th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 14 June 2016, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 14 June 2016, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 7713th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.

"The President invited Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing by Mr. Annadif.

"Members of the Council, Mr. Annadif and representatives of participating contributing countries had an exchange of views."

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United Nations S/PV.7714

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7714th meeting
Tuesday, 14 June 2016, 11 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Lamek	(France)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gimolieca
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	Egypt	Mr. Mahmoud
	Japan	Mr. Akahori
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

16-17191 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Guinea-Bissau

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representatives of Guinea-Bissau and Timor-Leste to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Modibo Touré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau; and Mr. Ovídio Manuel Barbosa Pequeno, Special Representative and Head of the African Union Liaison Office in Guinea-Bissau.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Touré and Mr. Pequeno, who are joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Bissau.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Touré.

Mr. Touré (*spoke in French*): It is my honour to brief the Security Council for the first time since my appointment on recent developments in Guinea-Bissau.

As Council members are aware, on 26 May, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. José Mário Vaz, appointed Mr. Baciro Djá as Prime Minister by presidential decree. Mr. Djá's Cabinet was sworn in on 2 June. The new Cabinet consists of 19 Ministers and 12 Secretaries of State. However, two critical ministerial positions — Interior and Foreign Affairs — remain vacant.

The appointment of the new Prime Minister triggered a political stand-off, whereby members of the dismissed Cabinet led by Mr. Carlos Correia refused to leave their offices, claiming that the recent presidential decree on the appointmentwas not in line with the Constitution and the Supreme Court's decision of 8 September 2015. Mr. Correia insisted that he and his Ministers would hand over their responsibilities only to a Government nominated by the Parti africain pour l'indépendance de la Guinée et de Cabo Verde (PAIGC), as the party that holds the absolute majority in the Parliament.

(*spoke in English*)

The prolonged impasse over the new Cabinet, the fourth since the legislative elections of May 2014, came close to a confrontation as security forces strengthened their presence at the Government palace, following a 48-hour ultimatum issued by the Prosecutor General on 3 June. Further events — notably the death on 4 June of Ms. Carmen Pereira, a historical figure of the country's liberation struggle who was also a veteran of the PAIGC and a staunch supporter of the dismissed Government — compounded the already tense situation and raised additional tensions between the sworn-in Government and the PAIGC over the organization of her funeral.

In an attempt to defuse tensions, I met with President Vaz, the dismissed Prime Minister Carlos Correia, the President of the opposition Parti du renouveau social, Mr. Alberto Nambeia, and the President of the PAIGC, Domingos Simões Pereira, appealing for restraint, political dialogue and respect for the rule of law. I also mobilized the international community in Bissau to explore options for a peaceful solution to the stand-off at the Government palace and the handling of Ms. Pereira's funeral. On 8 June, the day of Ms. Pereira's funeral ceremony, I issued a condolence note that was broadcast on the radio, calling on all stakeholders to remain calm in this moment of national mourning. In the end, the funeral was held peacefully.

Following intense overnight negotiations involving representatives of civil society, religious leaders, the Economic Community of West African States Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB) and the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau, on 9 June the remaining members of the dismissed Cabinet and their supporters peacefully vacated the Government Palace, ending a 14-day stalemate. Earlier on the same day, following consultations among international partners, the representatives of the African Union, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union and my Office had issued a joint communiqué expressing our support for a peaceful solution to the impasse.

The peaceful resolution of the stand-off may have helped avert a potentially serious crisis. However, further challenges loom ahead. The PAIGC has

initiated legal proceedings challenging the President's recent appointments. Furthermore, the status of the 15 Members of Parliament expelled by the PAIGC in January, as well as the ongoing impasse at the National Assembly, add to the legal confusion and institutional uncertainty facing the country. Following a decision of the new Cabinet on 3 June to dismiss the director of the national radio, the latter has filed a case with the Supreme Court, challenging the constitutionality of the presidential decree of 26 May, appointing Mr. Djá as Prime Minister. As Council members may recall, it was the same action by this appellant, after having been dismissed from the same post, that triggered the Supreme Court's proceedings that voided the appointment of Mr. Djá in September 2015.

Regardless of the judicial outcomes, a sustainable solution to the ongoing political crisis can only be found through genuine political dialogue. Yet, one of the primary forums for such dialogue — the National Assembly — suspended its current session on 18 May as a result of disputes over the agenda and the status of the 15 Members of Parliament. Earlier today, that parliamentary session was closed; the next one is expected to open later this month.

Against this backdrop, and since my arrival in Bissau, I have engaged in an intensive round of consultations with national and regional leaders, as well as international partners. I have specifically sought to shore up the commitment of ECOWAS to the presence of ECOMIB. In the lead-up to, as well as on the margins of the forty-ninth ordinary session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, I met with President Olusegun Obasanjo, Special Envoy of the Nigerian President, in his capacity as Chairman of the Regional Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau; Mr. Marcel de Souza, Chairperson of the ECOWAS Commission; President Alpha Condé of Guinea, in his capacity as the ECOWAS Mediator for Guinea-Bissau; and President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita of Mali to enlist their support in favour of an extension of ECOMIB and to help mediate a sustainable solution to the situation in Guinea-Bissau.

In this regard, we welcome the decision of the ECOWAS Heads of State of 4 June to extend the mandate of ECOMIB for another year, on the understanding that the international community would provide funding, as appropriate. As Council members are aware, the Heads of State also entrusted a high-level delegation, comprising the Presidents of Guinea, Senegal, and Sierra Leone, to engage with political stakeholders in Guinea-Bissau and better assess the situation in the country. In addition, they directed the ECOWAS Commission to consult with the CPLP with a view to convening a meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau. My Office stands ready to provide any assistance required to ensure the implementation of these key decisions.

Soon after the ECOWAS Summit, in an effort to maintain the Dakar momentum, I travelled to Abidjan to meet with President Alassane Ouattara and had follow-up conversations with his peers, the Presidents of Senegal and Guinea. In the days ahead, I shall also engage with the new Chair of ECOWAS, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and with President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone.

While we focus our energies on finding a political and sustainable solution, it is also important that we continue to provide the required support to the people of Guinea-Bissau, whose lives and livelihoods have been adversely impacted by the country's recurrent instability. We have seen in March and April how strikes in the health and education sectors seriously affected the school year and deprived citizens of key preventative and medical services, including maternal and child health.

The longer the crisis continues, the more likely it is that we will see a setback to the gains of the post-electoral period, including positive economic growth, increase in revenues and commitment to key reforms in defence and security, justice and public services. In a country where the official development assistance amounts to about 15 per cent of gross domestic product and almost 80 per cent of the budget, the current suspension of disbursements and direct budget support from the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the European Union and the African Development Bank creates financial pressure that could negatively affect the running of the State, including the payment of salaries.

The current situation calls for innovative strategies to deliver services and support the resilient population of Guinea-Bissau. With the United Nations country team, I shall continue to engage with partners to support the population, especially those most vulnerable. That would contribute to greater stability, while fostering dialogue with authorities on development and reform priorities as leverage for peace and development.

The attention given by the Security Council to the situation in Guinea-Bissau and its support to the search for a sustainable solution to the political and institutional challenges in the country are of the utmost importance.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Touré for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Pequeno.

Mr. Pequeno (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Sir, for this opportunity to brief the Council on the political and security situation in Guinea-Bissau.

(*spoke in English*)

I fully concur with the statement made by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Modibo Touré. Allow me to add some points.

The security situation in Guinea-Bissau remains calm and the military has so far kept out of politics. It is, however, questionable how long it can remain politically neutral, considering the fragile political situation. On top of that, the security sector reform process has stalled due to a lack of funding, as has the justice and public adminstration reform. We should recognize the critical importance of the role played by the Economic Community of West African States Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB), and welcome the decision taken by the Heads of State of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), who recently held a Summit in Dakar on 4 June to extend the mandate of ECOMIB for another year, which we believe will further stabilize the country. In that regard, we urge the defence and security forces of Guinea-Bissau to better collaborate and coordinate with ECOMIB.

In addition, we stress the importance of the ECOWAS high-level mission made up of three heads of State, which will go to Guinea-Bissau to engage in a dialogue with national political stakeholders with a view to encourage dialogue and find a lasting political solution to the continuing political crisis. The African Union stands ready to provide any assistance, in coordination with other partners, to ensure the success of the visit.

The crisis in Guinea-Bissau has long undermined peace and stability. The general tensions in the ruling party — the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde — and the divisions among political actors are the causes for the political and institutional crisis, which needs to be addressed with a compressive approach. It is our conviction that only a genuine and inclusive dialogue, based on respect for the country's Constitution and its laws, will lead to a resolution of the crisis. We therefore encourage all national political actors to exercise restraint, uphold the rule of law and engage in a constructive dialogue to resolve their differences, safeguard peace and stability and foster socioeconomic development, with a view to alleviating the suffering of the people of Guinea-Bissau.

Lastly, I would like to highlight the excellent level of coordination and collaboration among ECOWAS, the CPLP, the European Union, the United Nations and the African Union, as well as the role they have been playing to address the crisis in Guinea-Bissau. I look forward to working in the same spirit. Similarly, I would like to urge the CPLP and ECOWAS to convene an International Contact Group meeting on Guinea-Bissau to contribute to a resolution of the crisis.

We still have a long way to go. Two important portfolios in the new Government, as Mr. Touré mentioned, namely, the Minister for the Interior and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, are yet to be filled. Furthermore, the programme and budget of the Government need to sail through the National Assembly in due time.

I thank the Council for this opportunity and for its continued attention to the people of Guinea-Bissau.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Barbosa Pequeno for his briefing.

Mr. Seck (Senegal): (*spoke in French*): Before I go into my statement, I would like to thank the French presidency for quickly acceding, with the Security Council having such a busy programme, to the request by the delegation of Senegal to hold this briefing on the situation in Guinea-Bissau. On behalf of the members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau for his detailed briefing. I also thank the representatives of the African Union and of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP) for their commitment to Guinea-Bissau.

As has been clearly pointed out, there have been many developments in the political situation in Guinea-Bissau since the dissolution by President José Mário Vaz of the Government led by Prime Minister Carlos

Correia, on 12 May, and the subsequent appointment Mr. Baciro Djá to succeed him, on 26 May. The African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cabo Verde (PAIGC) rejected that decision, which it called illegal, and stated that, according to the Constitution, the Prime Minister was to be chosen by the majority party. In spite of the consultations held and the alternative proposals submitted by the PAIGC, President Vaz chose the option put forward by the Party for Social Renewal, naming Mr. Djá as Prime Minister. Given the tensions in the political class and the risk of an escalation, formal consultations were held at various levels to encourage dialogue among the stakeholders in order to find a solution acceptable to all.

I would like to welcome the active preventive efforts, made in particular by the Security Council, on this matter. There were many statements by the Council President to the press to express the Council's great concern at the impasse in the country for many months, as well as to call on political leaders to overcome that impasse and return to dialogue. The Council also adopted resolution 2267 (2016), on 26 February, which extended the mandate of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) until 28 February 2017. The resolution also calls upon Guinea-Bissau's President, Prime Minister, Speaker of Parliament and leaders of political parties to abide by their commitment to restore political stability in the country, in the interests of the people of Guinea-Bissau. The Council also visited Bissau on 7 March to repeat the same message and to undertake an exchange with the various stakeholders in the country's crisis. Lastly, discussions were recently held, on 12 May, on various issues, including as well the Council's consultations on 26 May, both of which were followed by a statement to the press by the President of the Council, expressing the great concern of the members in the face of the latest developments that had exacerbated tension among the political class and that risked undermining the country's security and stability, especially in the then run-up the end of the mandate of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau (ECOMIB).

Against that backdrop, at this stage I am pleased to refer to the conclusions of the forty-ninth Ordinary Summit of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government, held in Dakar on 4 June. The main elements included the extension of the ECOMIB mandate for an additional year; the deployment to Bissau of a presidential delegation, made up of President Macky Sall of Senegal, President Ernest Bai Koroma of Sierra Leone and President Alpha Condé of Guinea, to hold discussions with parties to the crisis in order to gain a better understanding of the current situation in the country; the adoption by the ECOWAS Commission of the necessary provisions to settle the arrears due to ECOMIB troop-and police-contributing countries; and the launch of consultations between the ECOWAS Commission and the CPLP with a view to the holding a meeting of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau. It should be noted that the ECOWAS Summit expressed its deep concern at the ongoing crisis in Guinea-Bissau, which undermines the implementation of commitments undertaken by development partners in May 2015 to provide financial assistance to the country. ECOWAS also urged political actors to engage in dialogue to resolve the political and institutional crisis, while also welcoming the professionalism of the army, which had remained on the sidelines of political developments, and encouraging it to so continue.

Those decisions by ECOWAS reflect the full engagement of the subregion for a peaceful and lasting resolution to the crisis in the country. Consultations are taking place to determine the date for the visit of the West African presidential delegation, which will be preceded by a mission made up by a delegation of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, Integration and/or Defence from the three countries I mentioned, accompanied by the Chair of the ECOWAS Commission, with the aim of identifying, along with the political actors in Guinea-Bissau, specific issues for the Heads of State to take up, including potential recommendations that could follow.

On behalf of all ECOWAS member countries, the delegation of Senegal welcomes the tireless efforts of Guinea-Bissau's partners, bilateral and multilateral alike, including the United Nations, the African Union, the European Union and the CPLP. We reiterate to them our gratitude for their very valuable support. ECOWAS also welcomes the outstanding work done by the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission and commends the latest press release, issued on 9 June. We are convinced that by working together and pooling all of our efforts, we will be able to contribute to restoring the cohesion and political stability so desired by the people of Guinea-Bissau, who deserve to enjoy the dividends of peace.

To conclude, ECOWAS reiterates its support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General

and encourages him to continue his good offices and mediation efforts.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Guinea-Bissau.

Mr. Da Gama (Guinea-Bissau): I wish to thank you, Mr. President, for having invited my delegation to the Council table and for allowing me to take the floor. I also congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency of the Council for the month of June and to wish you successful deliberations.

Allow me to recognize Mr. Modibo Touré, the new Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his prompt engagement in the current issues facing my country upon his arrival and for all of the diligent efforts of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau in addressing the latest developments in Guinea-Bissau.

The work of the Peacebuilding Commission configuration, through the personal engagement of Ambassador Antonio Patriota of Brazil, on peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau is very important and deeply appreciated. I also would like to thank Ambassador Maria Pires, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste and Chair of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), for her statement. I wish also to thank the Ambassador of Senegal for his important statement on Guinea-Bissau.

Guinea-Bissau is once again facing political and institutional crises, as we just heard from the briefing delivered by Mr. Modibo Touré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, whom I wish to thank. I also request him, on behalf of the people of Guinea-Bissau, to remain closely engaged together with the States members of our subregion, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), especially our closest neighbours, Senegal and the Republic of Guinea, which have been working hard to help Guinea-Bissau find a solution leading to sustainable peace.

Allow me to thank also Mr. Ovídio Pequeno, Head of the African Union Liaison Office in Guinea-Bissau, for his briefing and for the active role that he is playing in my country.

The recent Summit of Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS, held in Dakar, and the decision taken on the visit by the Presidents of the Republic of Guinea, Senegal and Sierra Leone to Bissau is very commendable. All of the people of Guinea-Bissau look forward to this mission, which will be crucial in showing the engagement of ECOWAS in the process of bringing peace, security and stability not only to Guinea-Bissau but to our subregion as a whole.

Allow me also to commend Senegal, through its Permanent Representative, Ambassador Fodé Seck, for the engagement of President Macky Sall to Guinea-Bissau, especially during his chairmanship of ECOWAS.

After the very comprehensive briefing on the current situation in Guinea-Bissau, all I have to add is that the country is practically paralysed, people are suffering, and everyone is apprehensively awaiting the Supreme Court ruling and the visit of the three Heads of State from the region. We are aware that the political and institutional crises that have isolated our country for the past year require political will on the part of the main actors in our country. However, the continued strong support of the international community as a whole, in a coordinated and single-minded manner, might help us to achieve a solid solution to the persistent impasse.

Very well-coordinated diplomatic efforts, such as the meeting of the Guinea-Bissau International Contact Group, in which the entire international community and our partners can participate, would be a step towards joining other voices to that of the people of Guinea-Bissau at this moment.

The financial support of the European Union, which allowed for the extension of the mandate of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea-Bissau for one more year, is very much appreciated.

As stated by the Heads of State of ECOWAS, the persistent crisis in Guinea-Bissau is undermining the implementation of the financial commitments made by our development partners in March 2015. For this we need coordinated support to bring stability to the country, which desperately needs to get back to normal functioning so that it can regain the trust of our partners and make the very encouraging results of the Brussels round-table conference on Guinea-Bissau a reality.

The people cherish the hope that these steps will help the country to finally concentrate on development as well as to continue with the needed security-sector reform, which should include a dignified pension for retired armed forces professionals. As the Council is aware, so far the armed forces have stayed out of the

present crisis, and we want them to continue with this republican position and non-interference in the political disputes of the country.

Before concluding, I would like to thank all present for their support during these dark times and wish to appeal to them not to abandon Guinea-Bissau and to remain even more engaged with the country in helping to consolidate and make stronger its institutions by working much more closely with the national authorities and all political stakeholders in terms of guidance, through an open and frank dialogue, so as to bring back peace and security.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now give the floor to the representative of Timor-Leste.

Ms. Pires (Timor-Leste): I would like to commend you, Mr. President, on your assumption of the Security Council presidency for this month and to thank you for inviting me and my delegation to address this meeting. I wish also to thank Mr. Modibo Touré, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Guinea-Bissau, and the African Union Special Representative to Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Ovídio Pequeno, for their briefings today. I also commend Mr. Touré for the efforts he has undertaken since he assumed his post.

I am honoured to address the Council on behalf of the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries (CPLP), whose members are Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea- Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe, and my own country, Timor-Leste.

The CPLP member States regret the evolution of the political situation since the last Council meeting on Guinea-Bissau (see S/PV.7632) and are deeply concerned at the current political impasse. The CPLP will continue its close cooperation with all partners in Guinea-Bissau in order to ensure sound coordination in all our efforts.

We welcome the efforts being made by ECOWAS to support Guinea-Bissau, in particular the decision to nominate the Heads of State of Sierra Leone, Senegal and Guinea to meet and conduct discussions with the political leadership in that country with a view to finding a political solution and preventing the escalation of the conflict.

We call on all stakeholders, namely, the organs of sovereignty, the political parties, civil society and others, to continue to engage in a constructive, inclusive political dialogue while respecting democratic principles and the Constitution. Statesmanship is required at this time to move the country forward so as to meet the aspirations of the people of the Guinea-Bissau for greater political stability and socioeconomic development, as well as for the consolidation of the rule of law and the protection and promotion of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

The CPLP also wishes to acknowledge the armed forces of Guinea-Bissau, which have displayed remarkable professionalism by not interfering in the political crisis, and wishes to urge the armed forces to maintain this position.

The document presented by President Jose Mário Vaz and former Prime Minister Domingos Simões Pereira at the donor round table in Brussels in March garnered the support of the international partners. It is deeply concerning that the instability in the country has forced international partners to delay disbursements of pledges made in March. Such delays will only affect the people of Guinea-Bissau, who are already suffering a highly negative social and economic impact.

The CPLP wishes to recognize the concerted efforts of the international community to assist Guinea-Bissau in this crisis. In this regard, we appreciate and commend the efforts of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), in particular those of the Ambassador of Brazil, Antonio Patriota, in his capacity as chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration of the PBC, as well as the support provided by the European Union, the African Union and the United Nations. We would also like to acknowledge the important role of the International Contact Group on Guinea-Bissau, and remain prepared to co-organize its next meeting.

To conclude, we recognize that the path travelled by Guinea-Bissau has been difficult, but we stand firmly in solidarity with our Bissau Guinean brothers and sisters and we are confident that Guinea-Bissau is a country with a bright future.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7715

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7715th meeting
Tuesday, 14 June 2016, 3.30 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Delattre	(France)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Japan	Mr. Okamura
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Rycroft
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Ramírez Carreño

Agenda

The situation in Libya

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16-17197 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Libya

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Libya to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2016/531, which contains the text of a draft resolution submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The Council is ready to proceed to the vote on the draft resolution before it. I shall put the draft resolution to the vote now.

A vote was taken by show of hands.

In favour:

Angola, China, Egypt, France, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Russian Federation, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

The President (*spoke in French*): The draft resolution received 15 votes in favour. The draft resolution has been adopted unanimously as resolution 2292 (2016).

I now give the floor to Council members wishing to make a statement after the vote.

Mr. Rycroft (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): At the outset, I would like to offer my sincerest condolences to the representative of the United States following the horrific attack in Orlando on Saturday. This was a hateful act of terror against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, and the United States has the fullest support of the United Kingdom and, I hope, of the whole Council as it comes to terms with this unspeakable tragedy.

Sadly, it is clearer than ever that we are all threatened by terrorism and those who follow terrorist ideologies. It is absolutely imperative that we fight these threats together — that we fight them as a united Council. So I warmly welcome the unanimous adoption of resolution 2292 (2016) today. As the penholder on this issue, the United Kingdom has made it a priority to take meaningful action against the illegal flow of weapons to Libya. We do so as a sign of our support for the Libyan Government of National Accord. It is making progress, taking control of the machinery of Government in Tripoli, and beginning to assert their authority, but it is clear that such progress still faces challenges. The existing arms embargo has not fully stopped the flow of weapons.

Illicit weapons are undermining the peace and security of the region. They are enabling terrorists to murder, to maim, to bring yet more chaos to the people of Libya and the region, who have suffered for too long. So this resolution authorizes all Member States and regional organizations to take specific and measured steps in response. It enables us to interdict vessels on the high seas off Libya when we believe that there are arms going to or from Libya on board. It enables us to inspect, seize and dispose of weapons and to divert vessels to a suitable port to facilitate that disposal.

In adopting this resolution today, let us remember that we have taken but one step. It is sensible, proportionate and necessary. The Libyans need our support, and I want to pay tribute to the courage of the Libyan forces fighting and increasingly defeating Da'esh in Benghazi, in Sirte and elsewhere. But Libya faces a twin threat. Just as Da'esh continues to exploit Libyan territory, criminal gangs continue to exploit the fear of people seeking a safer future. The waters of the Mediterranean are now synonymous with suffering; so many people feel they have no choice but to flee, to risk all they have, so that they might escape to safety.

So in adopting this resolution today, let us also reassert our support for the European Union mission, Operation Sophia, and all that it is doing to address the migrant crisis. We fully support its efforts to build the capacity of the Libyan coast guard, and as the British Prime Minister made clear at the Group of Seven Summit, we stand ready to provide an additional ship to increase interdiction efforts further.

Let me close by thanking all the members of the Council, including our European colleagues from Spain and France, for their support for this resolution today. Together, we have taken an important step forward that will help secure the coast of Libya, that will limit

Da'esh's freedom of movement, and that will ultimately help tackle the migration crisis.

Mr. Aboulatta (Egypt) (*spoke in Arabic*): Egypt voted in favour of resolution 2292 (2016). We wish to thank the delegation of the United Kingdom for all its efforts leading to the adoption of this important resolution. In addition, my delegation wishes to highlight the following points.

First, we reiterate our full support for the Presidency Council of the Government of National Accord in Libya and its efforts to restore stability in that fellow Arab State.

Secondly, enforcing the arms embargo in Libya and preventing illicit arms from reaching extremists and terrorists there are indeed vital goals. In fact, they are central to efforts to eradicate the terrorist threat in Libya. In that context, we again we wish to commend the United Kingdom and the other European Union members of the Security Council for their initiative in proposing this resolution.

Thirdly, achieving success in countering terrorism in Libya requires a comprehensive approach in addressing the threat. Therefore, no form of support for terrorists, including weapons, must be allowed to reach Libya. At the forefront of this effort should be the halting of the flow of terrorists to the country, as well as curbing their flow from the country through the Mediterranean to Europe.

It is noteworthy that today's resolution requests the Secretary-General to report to the Security Council on the threat posed to Libya and its neighbours by Da'esh and other terrorist groups. Accordingly, Egypt, acting in close cooperation with its partners on the Security Council, intends to strive to meet this challenge with a view to strengthening the international anti-terror system/regime as it pertains to Libya and making it more comprehensive.

Fourthly, we reiterate our call on the international community, and the Security Council in particular, to extend its support to Libyan national security institutions, at the head of which is the Libyan National Army, in their efforts to combat and eradicate terrorism. The Army, as the sole professional military force in existence in Libya today, should form the core of any future Libyan armed forces. We also wish to warn against the extreme danger of relying on any elements in Libya that have or have had ties to extremism or terrorism when it comes to setting up the national armed forces or to providing security to the Government of National Accord.

Mr. Safronkov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation did not prevent the adoption of resolution 2292 (2016). When we began working on the draft, we had the impression that this initiative was supposed to bring order to the illicit trafficking in weapons in Libya. That is why our delegation joined the discussions, intent on creating an additional effective filter in international waters of the Mediterranean.

But we were totally disappointed by the approaches of some colleagues when working on the document. When matters of principle had to be addressed, which requires diplomacy, they instead relied on ultimatums. Indeed, some partners decided that they wanted to see the Brussels decision to broaden the mandate of the military maritime Operation Sophia approved at any price. Furthermore, we saw unilateral, one-sided approaches put forward regarding the key issue of a political settlement in Libya that did not abide by the provisions of the Skhirat Agreement, which is the core of the inter-Libyan agreement and the joint Vienna Communiqué.

This is a very dangerous trend because, in this context, the undermining consequences of NATO's actions are being overlooked as even as they negatively impact stability in the Mediterranean basin, North Africa and in the Middle East as a whole. But we are still disentangling the violations and broad interpretations of resolution 1973 (2011) and the violations perpetrated by NATO members in 2011.

Our decision not to hinder the adoption of the resolution was based on two ideas. First, the resolution sets forth procedures that do not go beyond the framework of those agreed earlier by the Security Council, namely, resolution 2182 (2014) on Somalia and resolution 2240 (2015) on combating illegal migration. We hope that approaches to obtaining the agreement of flag State for planning inspections will indeed be upheld in full, and not just in words. We are guided by the clear provision of international maritime law that only the flag State has jurisdiction in the high seas. This reflects one of the most important freedoms of the high seas — the freedom of navigation.

Secondly, we believe that requests for exemptions from the arms embargo, in particular with respect to

the provision of lethal weapons, will be submitted for review to the Sanctions Committee, which applies the principle of consensus. We shall scrupulously follow the content and review of such requests most carefully. With respect to the provision of lethal weapons for the needs of the Government of National Accord of Libya, we would welcome the establishment of viable national armed forces with a central chain of command. However, such forces do not exist today in Libya. Nevertheless, due to the position of some delegations, the resolution does not stress the goal of establishing united security forces, which is of critical importance to restoring the unity of the country and its State institutions. Everyone knows how the United Nations is working towards these ends.

Creating united forces is reflected in the joint Vienna Communiqué, of 16 May, and is enshrined in resolution 2291 (2016), of 13 June, which extended the mandate of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. Without an effective central Government, a loyal army and police, Libyans will be unable to deal with all of the challenges ahead.

The position adopted by the Security Council as it drew up today's resolution leads one to believe that there is a hidden agenda behind the resolution that will not unite long-suffering Libya. It is possible that somebody is seeking a *carte blanche* so as to manage the weapons flow into Libya as they see fit. Today, that means helping some Libyans against others, which makes a peaceful settlement to the crisis even more remote. That is demonstrated, inter alia, by evidence of a foreign military presence in Libya not approved by the Security Council, as well as the flow of foreign terrorist fighters into the country.

We need to find our position in this context. Are we going to work together or not? Let us not forget that there are forces in Libya that are loyal to General Haftar which are effectively pushing back against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other armed terrorist groups. It is inadmissible to ignore this fact.

The general philosophy of the resolution leads us to believe that the sponsors are, frankly, not being very sincere in their fight against ISIL and the terrorist presence in Libya. We underscore that we are fully committed to the full implementation of the Skhirat Agreement. However, we must remember that this document plans for the approval of the composition of the Government of National Accord and the Parliament in Tobruk. Unfortuantely, in spite of our multiple requests, that was not reflected in the resolution and was simply ignored.

We call on all Member States to come together in an effort to resolve regional conflicts and combat terrorism and avoid trying to implement their own agendas. We call on Member States to be united rather than divided.

Mr. Liu Jieyi (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): Preventing the flow of illicit weapons into Libya affects the peace, security and stability of Libya and related regions. China supports the internationalnternational community in taking effective measures to implement the provisions of the Council's resolutions as they relate to the arms embargo in Libya and, in particular, in terms of severing the channels and networks used by terrorist organizations to smuggle and acquire weapons.

It is China's hope that countries will fully and appropriately implement resolution 2292 (2016), comply with the related principles of international law, and respect the sovereignty, legitimate rights and interests of flag States. The measures taken by countries in implementing the resolution should not prejudice the exclusive jurisdiction of the flag States over the related vessels. The inspection of related vessels should be undertaken only with the consent of the flag States and in accordance with the resolution.

China hopes that the various Libyan parties will resolve their differences as soon as possible through negotiation, restore peace, security and stability to the country, and combine their efforts in order to meet the challenges in the security field.

Mr. Yelchenko (Ukraine): First of all, I would like to add my voice to the expressions of sympathy and condolences conveyed through the United States delegation to the victims of the mass shooting in Orlando, which took so many innocent lives.

By voting in favour of today's resolution 2292 (2016), Ukraine proceeded from the conviction that, despite the introduction of the arms embargo on Libya in 2011, the threats posed by the trafficking of arms and ammunition to that country, as well as to the countries of the region, are growing. In an atmosphere of insecurity and political instability, armed groups operating in Libya, including terrorist organizations like Da'esh or Al-Qaida, still have access to the transfer of arms delivered to Libya in violation of the arms embargo.

These arms are being used not only to destabilize Libya, but to undermine peace and security in northern Africa and beyond.

The coordinated international support to Libya and the region to address the issue of the smuggling of illegal arms is highly needed now. The trafficking of arms not only to Libya but from Libya must be stopped. In this context, Ukraine welcomes the 23 May decision of the Council of the European Union to extend the mandate of Operation Sophia by one year and to add to its mandate the implementation of the United Nations arms embargo on the high seas off the Libyan coast. We also welcome the decision of the European Union to contribute to the training of the Libyan navy and coast guard, which we believe would strengthen counter arms proliferation measures in the Libyan territorial waters.

Finally, my delegation wishes to reiterate its support to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Libya.

Mr. Gasso Matoses (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): Spain voted in favour of resolution 2292 (2016) and wishes to thank Security Council members for their support for Operation Sophia to ensure compliance with the arms embargo on Libya by sea.

The European Union supports the security of the Mediterranean. We share a series of problems that neither of the two coasts can deal with on its own: terrorism, human trafficking and arms proliferation, among others. Operation Sophia has been successful in its first year of life and has responded to traffickers who endanger the lives of thousands of people on a daily basis.

Spain is one of the largest contributors to the Operation. Last May, in agreement with the Government of Libya, we started training coast guard officials. With the authorization of the Security Council, we now wish to improve the enforcement of the arms embargo on Libya as its authorities have requested for some time now and in accordance with the commitment it undertook at the ministerial conference in Vienna in May. We also believe that a strengthened embargo will strengthen the authority of the Presidency Council and the Government of National Unity already installed in Tripoli.

Ultimately, Operation Sophia is only one illustration of Europe's commitment to Libya. We have offered our cooperation to Prime Minister Serraj in other areas, such as emergency humanitarian assistance, health care and strengthening local institutions.

Spain has also cooperated with Libya in other areas, such as the promotion of freedom of the press and fighting hate speech through a series of seminars for the Libyan media, organized with the cooperation of UNESCO. The third such seminar was held in June 2015 in Madrid. We will closely follow the development of the political situation in the coming months and are ready to contribute to the Libya's stability, always with utmost respect for its national sovereignty.

The path we have chosen, as High Representative Federica Mogherini said in this Chamber a few days ago (see S/PV.7705), is of constant coordination between the European Union and the United Nations to serve the collective interest of the international community as a whole. That will be our main objective as we implement the resolution we have just adopted.

Mr. Méndez Graterol (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, I wish to express our condolences to the delegation and people of the United States over the horrendous acts of violence that took the lives of so many innocent people in Orlando.

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela voted in favour of resolution 2292 (2016) because it believes that the threat posed by the presence of terrorist and other armed groups to peace and stability in Libya and throughout the region calls for a common effort of the international community to take effective measures against the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons in violation of the arms embargo. We believe, indeed we are convinced, that illegal arms trafficking is one of the main contributors to destabilization and to the propagation of terrorism in the region.

In authorizing the interdiction of ships on the high seas suspected of transporting arms to be used by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant or Da'esh or other terrorist organizations in Libya, respect for international law must be upheld, which includes obtaining the consent of the vessel's flag State prior to any inspections. The authorities of those flag States should cooperate with such inspections. We must also bear in mind the need to not cause undue delay to or undue interference with the exercise of freedom of navigation in accordance with the relevant legal instruments of the law of the sea. We believe that the practice of interdicting vessels on the high seas off the

coast of Libya with a view to combating the traffic in arms and related materiel should not be extrapolated to other possible cases, nor should such practice take place in the territorial waters of Libya without that country's express consent.

We are convinced that the fight against terrorism requires the effective implementation, without any double standard, of Security Council resolutions that prohibit the financing and transfer of arms to terrorist groups, which are committing appalling crimes in the Middle East and Africa in violation of international humanitarian law and human rights.

Moreover, our delegation is aware of the tremendous challenges faced by the new Libyan authorities in this transition phase with regard to the urgent need to address the proliferation of weapons and the presence of various armed groups, the majority of which are operating outside of the effective control of the Libyan State. Foreign terrorist fighters, as well as terrorist and extremist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and Al-Qaida, have continued to consolidate their presence in Libya, exploiting the institutional collapse and existing political divisions as well as the absence of strict border controls resulting from the armed intervention by certain NATO countries in 2011.

As indicated last week by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, Mr. Martin Kobler (see S/PV.7706), Libya is awash in weapons. There are approximately 20 million weapons in a country with only 6 million inhabitants, which reach Libya illegally by land and by sea. This is the alarming reality that is fuelling the conflict and endangering the gains made in the context of the political process as well as by the Government of National Accord.

In this regard, Venezuela believes that it is vital that the Libyan authorities implement a viable plan that would enable the State to fully assume its security functions as quickly as possible, including the monopoly over the use of force provided for in the relevant provisions of the Libyan Political Agreement. This includes the development of national security institutions, the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, and the implementation of official security-sector reform programmes. The international community as a whole must support Libya in these objectives.

The adoption of this resolution is taking place in a decisive context in terms of making progress in the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement, a process promoted by the United Nations and that we all supported. We reiterate that the implementation of the Skhirat Political Agreement, of 17 December 2015, is the only way of achieving a peaceful and sustainable solution that could provide the necessary assistance and support to Libyan State institutions, so as to enable them to function smoothly and contribute to finding a peaceful, negotiated political solution to the armed conflict in Libya.

Lastly, we wish to reiterate our firm commitment to the principle of full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Libya.

The President (*spoke in French*): I shall now make a statement in my national capacity as the representative of France.

As I did yesterday on behalf of the presidency of the Security Council, I should like here, on behalf of France, to once again express to our American friends and partners our deep condolences and full solidarity during this most difficult time.

France welcomes the unanimous adoption of resolution 2292 (2016), which is the result of the joint initiative of the three members of the European Union on the Security Council, with the United Kingdom as penholder. Following the vote and the statements that have just been made, I believe that there are several salient points.

First, this document addresses primarily an urgent security need. As violations of the arms embargo on Libya are ongoing, fuelling instability in the country and benefiting Da'esh and other terrorist groups, it was imperative that the Security Council establish, as expeditiously as possible, an adequate framework for action providing the international community with real and effective means of implementing the embargo imposed by the Council, without prejudice, of course, to the capacity of the Government of National Accord to request exemptions thereto.

The resolution makes it possible to effectively carry out, on the high seas off the Libyan coast, inspections of vessels suspected of being engaged in arms trafficking. This represents a significant step forward in the implementation of the arms embargo in Libya. It will contribute to the stability of the country and to the security of neighbouring States and of the region as a whole.

The international community must also work to stem the flow of weapons to Libya by land and by sea, weapons that, if not authorized by the sanctions committee, represent a violation of the resolutions of the Security Council. It is also imperative that all parties increase their vigilance in this area.

Secondly, the document is well balanced. The Chapter VII authorization under the resolution is carefully set out. It would apply in very specific contexts and does not call into question the law of the sea, whose guiding principle remains the consent of the flag State. The resolution also has as a goal the implementation of the arms embargo, so as to support the Government of National Accord. It also usefully recalls that the Government can be the recipient of legal arms transfers, with a view in particular to strengthening those who, under full Government authority, are combating terrorism.

Thirdly and finally, the document will immediately be followed up with concrete action. As the Council is aware, the European Union, on 23 May, made known its intention to contribute to the strengthening of the arms embargo in Libya by broadening the scope of the mandate of operation Sophia of the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean. This commitment on the part of the European Union and the support provided today by the Security Council through the adoption of the resolution bear witness once again to the leading role played by the European Union in the quest for peace and stability in Libya, primarily in the interests of the Libyan people but also with a view to ensuring the security of the countries neighbouring Libya, of the region and of Europe. We deem this a most positive development.

I wish to conclude my statement by emphasizing the success that the adoption of the resolution represents for the Security Council. It makes clear once again our capacity to come together to take the measures necessary so as to effectively ensure international peace and security for a reconciled and unified Libya.

I now resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7716

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7716th meeting
Tuesday, 14 June 2016, 4.20 p.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Lamek	(France)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Japan	Mr. Okamura
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Ciss
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Hickey
	United States of America	Mr. Pressman
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Letter dated 8 June 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/510)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council. Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

16-17203 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 4.20 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan

Letter dated 8 June 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2016/510)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of the Sudan to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/510, which congtains the text of a letter dated 8 June 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council.

I now give the floor to Mr. Ladsous.

Mr. Ladsous (*spoke in French*): I thank you, Mr. President, for this new opportunity to present a briefing to the Security Council on the situation in Darfur and the activities of African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

The special report (see S/2016/510) of the Secretary-General and of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission presents the results of the Darfur joint assessment mission by the African Union and the United Nations of the situation in Darfur and the steps to be taken to implement the UNAMID mandate, as well as the operational effectiveness of the military and police components of the mission. I will present the conclusions and recommendations that were the outcome of the joint assessment and the major events that have taken place since it was published, on 8 June.

The nature of the conflict in Darfur remains unchanged since the renewal of the mandate of the mission, for many reasons.

First, little progress has been made in finding a viable political solution to the conflict. The Government of the Sudan and the non-signatory armed movements have yet to reach consensus with regard to the role of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur in the negotiation process led by the piece High-level Implementation Panel of the African Union. On 30 and 31 May in Doha, UNAMID and the Government of Qatar consulted with the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) to help achieve a rapprochement of the positions of the two parties. It is regrettable that the Abdul Wahid faction was absent from the negotiating table, and it which should be urged to engage constructively in achieving consensus. For now, the United Nations and the African Union have called on the Sudanese opposition to follow the road map proposed by the High-level Panel and signed by the Sudanese Government in April. If all stakeholders were to abide by the road map, that would undoubtedly lead to significant progress in the peace process, thereby opening the way for progress with regard to ceasefire negotiations in South Kordofan and Blue Nile states, the political process in Darfur and the national dialogue.

Secondly, there is the element of intercommunal violence, which are emanating from disputes over access to land, water and grazing areas, remains a major cause of insecurity in Darfur. That communal violence has also been exacerbated by the politicization of disputes, the degree to which communities are being armed, inadequate efforts — it must be said — to restore the rule of law, and the recurrent impunity enjoyed by the perpetrators of acts of violence. There have been four major incidents since January between Arab tribes and their neighbours — the Gimir and Masalit — in West Darfur, triggered by incidents of cattle rustling. On 22 May, for example, a member of an Arab tribe and a soldier of the Sudanese army were killed in Azerni, east of El Geneina, following the escalation of a dispute on the non-payment for services rendered, which escalated into an attack on a mosque in which six Masalit civilians were killed.

(*spoke in English*)

In the face of such violence, the Government, particularly at the State level, has taken measures to restore security by deploying additional forces to hot spots, enhancing mediation efforts, including between farmers and nomads, and planning a broad civilian disarmament campaign. Despite such efforts, however, the violence persists, as its underlying causes, which

are inherently linked to those of the broader Darfur conflict, are yet to be addressed.

Thirdly, while direct clashes between the Government and the armed movement forces have subsided as a whole, the fighting with the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid faction in Jebel Marra, which rejects any negotiations with the Government, has continued. In mid-January, the Government launched an aerial and ground offensive in parts of Central, North and South Darfur. The aim of that was to dislodge the SLA/Abdul Wahid from its strongholds in the mountainous area, which the latter resisted through asymmetric warfare and the high mobility of its forces.

While the Government stated in April that the rebellion had ended with the capture of Sorrong in Central Darfur, reports of clashes have continued, including indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population, which UNAMID could not verify due to a lack of access. Most recently, on 30 May, Abdul Wahid forces reportedly attacked the Sudanese armed forces positions east of Nertiti, in Guthrum in Central Darfur. Ground fighting and aerial bombardments followed, and continued until 5 June, with reports of casualties on both sides, as well as among civilians.

As of today, while 2.6 million people remain displaced across Darfur, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has reported 80,000 verified internally displaced persons (IDPs) since the resumption of fighting in the Jebel Marra area in mid-January. It has also received reports of as many as 127,000 additional displaced persons, but that number has not been verified, due to the lack of humanitarian access, particularly in Central Darfur. Furthermore, a total of 1.6 million civilians continue to reside in the region in some 60 camps for internally displaced persons. Although some of those displaced have returned to their homes, many have chosen to remain in camps or in urban areas. By the way, IDPs have largely voiced their rejection of the Government's plans to implement a voluntary process to end displacement by 2017. They cited for that the absence of security, stability, justice, access to basic services, compensation and issues with their land rights.

With respect to relations with the Government of the Sudan, UNAMID continued to face considerable challenges that impeded the implementation of its mandate, including denials of access and freedom of movement, particularly, as I already noted, to conflict areas such as Jebel Marra. Denials and delays in the issuance of visas and the clearance of shipment containers at Port Sudan have also continued. Delays in the clearance of military and police equipment, food rations and sustainment supplies remain a significant obstacle in that context. The African Union and United Nations, with the support of Security Council members, have consistently engaged the Government of the Sudan on those matters. At the latest tripartite meeting, held in Khartoum on 23 May, the Government reiterated its commitment to continue working with UNAMID on resolving those issues. More recently, the Sudanese ForeignMinister reiterated his Government's commitment to address those challenges. We very much hope that those assurances will result in much-needed progress on the ground.

Further to the request of their two Councils, the United Nations and African Union also continued their discussions with the Government on the development of an exit strategy for UNAMID based on the benchmarks. The Joint Working Group met from 12 to 22 May. The Working Group, which is made up of the three parties, visited the five states of Darfur and held discussions in Khartoum. They agreed on a general evaluation of the benchmarks and on recommendations whose implementation would provide elements for a gradual and phased exit strategy. However, the Joint Working Group did not reach consensus on the issue of the process leading to a possible reconfiguration of the mission. On 23 May, during the twenty-first tripartite meeting, which was also held in Khartoum, the three parties endorsed the outcome of the Joint Working Group and requested it to reconvene in four months to review the implementation of its recommendations and the benchmarks.

Given the current situation in Darfur, the joint assessment mission concluded that the strategic priorities of UNAMID and their corresponding benchmarks remained valid. Within that framework, the Chairperson and the Secretary-General therefore recommended for UNAMID to focus its activities, first, on protecting the displaced populations and, secondly, on addressing intercommunal violence more comprehensively.

In a situation of continuing armed conflict, intercommunal violence and attacks against civilians, the current security conditions in Darfur are not conducive to a large-scale return of IDPs to their places of origin. Any such return would have to be

voluntary, consented to, safe and accompanied by durable solutions. Building upon its current strategy for the protection of civilians, UNAMID would support the work of humanitarian partners and of the Sudanese authorities by providing protection to the displaced and prioritizing existing resources based on a mapping of the situation in the camps, the areas at risk for further displacement and potential areas of return across Darfur.

The sustainable resolution of intercommunal violence in Darfur would require a comprehensive political agreement that should recognize fully and uphold the rights of both farmers and nomads, empower local-level conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms and that should strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system to maintain law and order and ensure accountability for crimes. UNAMID needs to continue engaging the Government of the Sudan on the need for those goals to be achieved. In the absence of a more long-term solution, however, UNAMID would build on its existing activities and develop a strategy bringing together all the relevant mission components to address some of the most pressing sources of violence through prevention and mitigation and, with the United Nations country team, support for the resolution of the underlying causes.

As part of the joint assessment, the African Union and the United Nations also conducted a review of the effectiveness of the military and police components. The review recommended for the current number of military and police personnel to be retained and for the mission to take measures to enhance its overall flexibility through the reinforcement of troops at the team sites having greater operational significance. In parallel, the reduction or closure of other team sites should take place and a highly mobile reserve military capability should be established while increasing the field presence of police officers from within existing capabilities.

While focusing on those issues will serve to enhance the impact of UNAMID's conflict resolution and protection mandated activities, their effect will remain limited in scope in the absence of further progress towards a comprehensive and sustainable political solution. We therefore continue to call upon all parties to continue efforts in good faith to achieve the much-needed cessation of hostilities in Darfur and to work towards ensuring a credible and inclusive national dialogue process.

Based on the status of the UNAMID benchmarks and pending the implementation of the recommendations of the Joint Working Group, the Secretary-General and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission therefore recommended for the two Councils to consider extending the mandate of UNAMID for 12 months, until 30 June 2017, without modification to its priorities or adjusting its authorized troop and police ceiling. I would note that yesterday the African Union Peace and Security Council endorsed that recommendation. I therefore wish to reiterate the Secretary-General's request for the Security Council to also do so.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Ladsous for his briefing and for his commitment.

I now give the floor to the representative of the Sudan.

Mr. Mohamed (Sudan) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like to express my gratitude to the Secretary-General for the report (see S/2016/510) presented to the Security Council on his behalf and on behalf of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Ladsous for his briefing. We reiterate that we will continue our full cooperation.

I would also like to express my sincere condolences to the Governments and the peoples of the United States and France for the terrorist attacks that happened in both countries recently. We condemn terrorism in all its forms. In that context, it gives us great pleasure to convey to Council members who are following-up that we will cooperate fully to defeat terrorism and eradicate its threat, side by side with the international community and the individual countries concerned. That is know to everyone.

The reality on the ground in Darfur does not conform with some of the contents of the report. The best proof is the work of the Joint Working Group on an exit strategy for UNAMID, which met on 24 May. That tripartite Group, made up of the Government of the Sudan, the African Union and the United Nations, visited Darfur to assess the situation. The mission travelled to all five states and met with representatives of the Governments, the displaced, the local authorities and the commanders of UNAMID.

In the report that was issued following its visit to Darfur, the Joint Working Group attested to the great improvement in the security situation following the

success of the Sudanese military forces in defeating the rebel movements and eradicating them from all the states of Darfur, with the exception of one region in western Jebel Marra. The report of the Joint Working Group also confirms the great effort made by the governors of all five Darfur states to provide security and prevent inter-communal disputes. That had great impact on decreasing the number of inter-communal conflicts and limiting their consequences, especially those occurring during the reporting period.

Thanks to the improved security situation, a huge increase was seen in voluntary returns of the displaced to their original villages. Statistics of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs show that more than 400,000 displaced persons have returned voluntarily and are benefiting from the security and basic services available for the returnees in villages set up by the brotherly State of Qatar and the League of Arab States and in line with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur.

In addition, the Government of the Sudan has started implementing a plan to address the situation of the displaced in the camps and to take all the measures necessary for their voluntary return, or for transforming the camps and the necessary resources for those who want to remain.

Moreover, I would like to inform the Council that, during his short visit to New York last week, the Sudanese Minister for Foreign Affairs held a number of meetings with the Secretary-General and various persons interested in the situation in Darfur, during which he referred to the full engagement of the Government of the Sudan with the United Nations, UNAMID and all other actors in ensuring a comprehensive response to all the needs and demands of UNAMID and continue working together to respond to such requests, inter alia, involving visas, containers, customs duties and all other measures that we have addressed so far.

The administrative referendum in Darfur represented an important historical juncture with regard to the legal requirements set out in the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur, which set the proper basis to bring about peace and security in Darfur. We hope that the Council will adopt a supportive stance in view of those results. As witnessed by the entire world, the referendum took place in a conducive political and security environment that enabled the citizens of Darfur to exercise their right to register and to vote, thereby choosing the administrative formula they desire to govern Darfur. The process was conducted completely peacefully without a single security incident reported. That is yet further clear proof of the sustained improvement of the political and security situation there.

The Government of the Sudan has reiterated time and again that the establishment of UNAMID was the result of an agreement with the Government of the Sudan. A stipulation was made that the mission would consist mostly of African personnel to assist in maintaining peace and security in the Sudan. After almost a decade, we find that the need for UNAMID no longer exists in many parts of Darfur, as attested to by UNAMID commanders and forces. In that connection, I would like to refer the Council to the report of the Joint Working Group that was submitted to the strategic tripartite mechanism following its members' visit to Darfur in May. That proves the success of the African UNAMID force, which has achieved its objective by providing peace and stability.

Moreover, the Government of the Sudan calls for a drawing down of UNAMID forces in the areas where they are no longer needed — of which there are many. The starting point would be the areas agreed upon by all parties in West, South and North Darfur states. Such a drawdown could serve as a starting point in the implementation of the exit strategy gradually and smoothly, in phases. Following that, the duties of UNAMID would be transferred to the United Nations country team to implement the development projects to promote stability and peace in Darfur.

The Government of the Sudan has spared no effort in attempting to bring about comprehensive lasting peace throughout the country, thereby avoiding the scepter of war and conflict. In that context, the national dialogue initiative, launched by the President of the Republic last October, continued its meetings over more than three months and covered various issues. The different committees undertook their work in free and open settings, and then submitted their recommendations to the General Assembly for discussion. They are now awaiting their adoption and the start of implementation.

We are also providing the opportunity and the time for those who have abstained from joining the process. We hope that they will join soon so that we can complete the road map for building our nation on the basis of consensus and unanimity, while rejecting division.

Accordingly, I hope that the international community, foremost the Security Council, will bring pressure to bear on those who have abstained from participating so that they join the national dialogue, as well as to impose sanctions on all of those who have hindered the process or attacked UNAMID forces, as was the case involving the Sudan Liberation Army/Abdul Wahid faction on 1 January, during which it attacked UNAMID forces with heavy weapons near Kutum, as described in the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/268) on UNAMID published on 22 March, which the Council considered on 6 April (see S/PV.7666).

In cooperation with the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, the Government of the Sudan attempted to reach a peace agreement with the opposition forces and the armed movements. The Government therefore signed the road map presented by the tripartite mechanism. However, the refusal and intransigence of the other party portend further violations and impediments to the peace process. The Council must take a clear position aimed at returning the opposition and the other remaining armed movements to the negotiating table by accepting the road map as a basis for the settling of all issues.

I see no alternative to giving full cognizance to the fact that Darfur today is free from all organized armed movements, as accurately defined in the 1977 Protocol II additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949. That fact has been recognized by the joint meetings involving the Government of the Sudan and the African Union, on the one hand, and the United Nations, on the other. Therefore, we must now allow any disassociation between the verified facts recognized in such joint meetings, as proved on the ground in Darfur, and the decision to be taken in a few days by the Council on UNAMID. We therefore call upon the Council to recognize the great progress achieved after the resumption of the Joint Working Group meeting on an UNAMID exit strategy — a group that bases its work primarily on resolution 1769 (2007), which established the mission in 2007.

To conclude, I would like to stress the unequivocal determination and readiness of my Government to cooperate and coordinate with UNAMID and all of its entities to enable the mission to fully undertake and implement its mandate. It is worth mentioning that the statistices included in the report of the Secretary-General, although contested, bear out such cooperation and the progress made with respect to the situation, particularly regarding the return of displaced persons. If issues remain in other areas, such as customs or other matters, it has nothing to do with any premeditated intention. We have demonstrated to the Council several times and with statistics the volume of that great cooperation.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.7717

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7717th meeting

Wednesday, 15 June 2016, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Delattre	(France)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gimolieca
	China	Mr. Xu Zhongsheng
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Japan	Mr. Akahori
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Spain	Mr. González de Linares Palou
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Mr. Gee
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Suárez Moreno

Agenda

Women and peace and security

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16-17554 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Women and peace and security

The President (*spoke in French*): The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The Council has before it the text of a statement by the President on behalf of the Council on the subject of today's meeting. I thank the Council members for their valuable contributions to this statement. In accordance with the understanding reached among the members of the Council, I shall take it that the members of the Security Council agree to the statement, which will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2016/9.

The meeting rose at 10.05 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Central African region

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (S/2016/482)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the following briefers to participate in this meeting: Mr. Abdoulaye Bathily, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa; and His Excellency Mr. Ahmad Allam-Mi, Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/482, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa.

I now give the floor to Mr. Bathily.

Mr. Bathily (*spoke in French*): I have the honour to introduce the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa and the activities of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (S/2016/482). The report before the Council identifies the principal threats to peace and security in Central Africa and an update on the initiatives of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) over the past six months, in consultation with the States of the subregion, entities of the United Nations system and subregional organizations.

(*spoke in English*)

The successful holding of presidential and legislative elections in the Central African Republic has brought the transition to an end. I am pleased that the country has reached that important milestone, putting the Central African Republic back on the path towards sustainable peace, development and long-term peacebuilding. I commend the Governments, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic and other United Nations entities, as well as partners that have worked tirelessly to end the crisis in the Central African Republic. President Faustin Archange Touadera enjoys widespread support, and the population wants and needs change for the better.

At the same time, the challenges before the Central African Republic remain immense, in the context of ongoing, serious protection and humanitarian needs, crushing poverty and urgent requirements in the areas of disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and repatriation, as well as on security-sector reform. Armed groups still control large parts of the country, and the Government is in need of the full political, programmatic and financial support of the international community to ensure the re-establishment of State authority throughout the country.

Despite recent positive developments, it is critical that partners remain engaged and redouble their assistance to the country across all the thematic areas of need, in order to take advantage of the window of opportunity that is before us. I commend the Governments of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) for their invaluable support to the Central African Republic to date. I encourage them to continue to support the Central African Republic in its post-transition efforts.

As I already stated during my previous briefing (see S/PV.7572), in December 2015, there are political tensions of concern in other countries in Central Africa that are linked to recent or upcoming electoral processes. That undermines the ongoing work to consolidate stability, development and democracy in countries of the subregion, and also the necessary work of integration across the area. I will continue to use my good offices to engage with stakeholders in the subregion to encourage the peaceful resolution of those disputes. I also believe that it is crucial to redouble our conflict-prevention efforts in countries where elections are still due to take place this year, including through the promotion of an inclusive political dialogue.

I am pleased to report that, since my previous briefing to the Council, the collective efforts of the Lake Chad Basin countries have reduced the capacity of Boko Haram to undertake frequent attacks, as it had in the past. The cross-border operations by the Multi-National Joint Task Force have captured Boko Haram fighters,

freed captives and reclaimed territory from the terrorist group. However, the ability to conduct precise counter-insurgency operations is often compromised due to an assessment by security forces that Boko Haram operatives live among the local population. Despite the successes realized, Boko Haram continues to pose a serious threat to regional stability. The group persists in targeting civilians, including through suicide attacks, often using young girls as bombers. Additionally, the risk that Boko Haram could attract or catalyse other terrorist threats in the subregion should not be discounted. While humanitarian assistance has been mobilized for the populations affected by Boko Haram, the number of internally displaced persons and refugees fleeing from Boko Haram violence continues to increase, with limited funding received thus far to address the growing humanitarian needs.

For those reasons, it is crucial that international partners maintain their support to the region in order to end the threat posed by the group and that they stress the need for a holistic regional approach, as emphasized during the second Regional Security Summit, held in Abuja on 14 May. I urge the international community to support the Multi-National Joint Task Force by mobilizing the requisite political, logistical and financial support in a flexible manner.

While assistance to the Multi-National Joint Task Force is critical, however, so is the need to finance and implement early-recovery and development activities in the affected areas. In that regard, I will continue to work in close cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for West Africa and the Sahel to engage the Governments concerned and the relevant subregional bodies — the Economic Community of Central African States and the Economic Community of West African States — to ensure their continued support for the Task Force and the allocation of adequate humanitarian and development assistance to the affected populations. We will also continue to encourage them to ensure that counter-terrorism operations are carried out in full compliance with international humanitarian law, human rights law and refugee law. The support and assistance of the international community to reduce the burden on the affected States will be crucial to winning the fight against Boko Haram.

The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continues to threaten the security of the population in the area where it operates, and notably increased its alleged attacks in the Central African Republic during the reporting period, reportedly extending into areas that had previously seen little to no LRA movement. Group elements have also persisted in attacking the civilian population in the north-eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Overall, the LRA now appears to be deviating from what for a certain period had been a low-profile posture, with attacks against larger and less isolated population areas being noted and an increased number of children kidnapped and kept. We must keep that in mind and continue our efforts until the job is finally completed.

During the reporting period, UNOCA continued its active engagement to fill coordination gaps on the LRA issue and convened the biannual meeting of LRA focal points in April. Together with the African Union and other United Nations partners, UNOCA also organized a workshop in March to identify more clearly the respective roles and responsibilities of different actors in LRA-affected countries that are assisting LRA members who have defected or escaped from the group. UNOCA also assisted in the organization of a meeting of the African Union's Joint Coordination Mechanism in May, which called for the mobilization of additional resources for the Regional Task Force — a particularly important issue given the decision of Uganda to withdraw from the force in the near future. The United Nations is concerned about the impact of Uganda's potential withdrawal on the security situation in the eastern part of the Central African Republic and calls on all stakeholders, including the Governments of Uganda and of the Central African Republic, as well as partners, to ensure that any potential departure of Ugandan troops is undertaken in an orderly and coordinated manner.

I am pleased to report that progress has been made in the operationalization of the regional strategy on maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, which includes the adoption of a number of recommendations with regard to the programme of activities, the budget and the administration of the Interregional Coordination Centre, which is based in Yaoundé. I also welcome the scheduling of the African Union summit on maritime security and development in Lomé in October 2016.

In all aspects of UNOCA's work, our principal partner remains the Economic Community of Central African States. During the reporting period we focused on the further strengthening of the relationship between the two institutions. That has included coordination with the Secretary-General of ECCAS on the provision of

UNOCA support for the reform of ECCAS institutions and the conclusion of a new cooperation framework agreement to guide our joint efforts. In that context, I welcome the briefing of Secretary-General Ahmad Allam-Mi to the Council today.

We look forward to the continued engagement of the Security Council in promoting peace and security in Central Africa. UNOCA will continue to work closely with Member States of the subregion in that important endeavour.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Bathily for his briefing and his exemplary commitment.

I now give the floor to Mr. Allam-Mi.

Mr. Allam-Mi (*spoke in French*): I would like to say how honoured I am and pleased to be here among the members of the Security Council at this important informational meeting on the Central African region. I express my sincere thanks to the French presidency for its invitation addressed to me to succinctly brief the Council on the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), which is, it must be emphasized, one of eight pillars for the building of African integration.

Established in 1983, ECCAS covers a geographical area of 6.6 million square kilometres where more than 160 million people live today. It aims to promote and strengthen harmonious cooperation among its member States, as well as balanced and sustainable development in all areas of socioeconomic activity. To that end, we have just launched, on 13 May in Kinshasa, the ECCAS Free Trade Area. Together with the infrastructure and the environment, free trade is one of our main priorities. Our highest priorities today, however, are peace and security issues, which was not the case when ECCAS was established.

Issues of peace and security were imposed on ECCAS at the end of a period of lethargy for the institution between 1992 and 1998, as a result of the violent wars that 7 of its 10 member States experienced during the period. The ECCAS peace and security architecture works in harmony with the African Union Peace and Security Architecture, with results that can certainly be improved upon but are still encouraging. ECCAS has been able to take concrete action on the ground. For example, the situation in the Central African Republic led ECCAS to deploy its first peacekeeping mission, the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic, which started with a staff of 675 but grew to a staff of 2,600 for its second mission, in 2013, at the peak of the crisis, thereby avoiding chaos in the country.

Accordingly, the member States of ECCAS have agreed, for over two decades, to make significant sacrifices in terms of human, material and financial resources. They have continued to support the Central African Republic, despite the deployment of Operation Sangaris, the African-led International Support Mission in the Central African Republic, and then United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic. Just recently, the financial contribution of ECCAS — decided in November 2015 at the seventh extraordinary summit of Heads of State of the region held to consider the situation in the Central African Republic — was instrumental in the holding of elections and in helping the country complete the transition in a timely manner. Although the transition is over, today ECCAS remains seized of the situation in the Central African Republic and wishes to be associated with any international initiative, whether it be by the United Nations or some other entity, that strives to help that member State to finally get out of the spiral of violence.

With regard to maritime safety and security, ECCAS was the first regional economic community in Africa to adopt a strategy to secure its maritime space, pursuant to resolutions 2018 (2011) and 2039 (2012). The Central African subregion is now home, in Yaoundé, to the Interregional Coordination Centre for Maritime Safety and Security in the Gulf of Guinea (ICC), the body responsible for the implementation of this strategy in the States of the Gulf of Guinea, which, through their regional institutions — ECCAS, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea (CGG) — are now finalizing the operationalization process. ECCAS, ECOWAS and the CGG have committed to fully supporting the budget for the ICC from July to December 2016. For the year 2017, I would like to appeal to all that are using Gulf of Guinea sea routes and resources — States, institutions, maritime operators, fishing companies, oil companies, ship owners —to announce their contributions at the conference for partners and third-party contributors that we will hold in Yaoundé on 26 to 27 July.

With respect to the fight against terrorism, ECCAS has taken important initiatives to support its two member States — Cameroon and Chad — involved

in the fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram. Financial assistance to both countries in the amount of $100 million was granted at a summit on the issue. The fight against the terrorist group Boko Haram is heavy burden on the meagre resources of States engaged in it. It is therefore essential that the international community substantially strengthen its multifaceted support to enable the Multinational Joint Task Force to become fully operational in order to achieve its goal of eliminating Boko Haram.

As to the political, security and humanitarian situation in general, ECCAS remains particularly affected by electoral and post-electoral conflicts, the crises in Burundi and in eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the legacy of the great social, political and humanitarian crisis in the Central African Republic and the terrorist activities of Boko Haram, the Lord's Resistance Army and terrorist groups in Libya. In that regard, I commend the excellent report (S/2016/482)of the Secretary-General on the situation in Central Africa, submitted by Special Representative of the Secretary-General Abdoulaye Bathily. Nevertheless, certain political aspects of the report could be more nuanced, as the countries of Central Africa are in a transitional phase towards building States based on the rule of law and democracy. In this phase, the international community's support should not fail them, with a view to improving and building the capacity of their institutions.

Despite our efforts and successes, real difficulties, mainly of a structural, financial and technical order, impede the proper functioning of ECCAS. To remedy the situation, we are actively working to bring about institutional reform at ECCAS by updating our constitutive documents — our Treaty dates back to 1983 — in harmony with those of the African Union, renewable funding instruments, an organizational model, efficient decision-making and management procedures consistent with international standards, and policies, strategies and programmes compatible with Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

In this context, support and renewed support on the part of the international community are needed, in particular by the United Nations. The outstanding cooperation between the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa and the General Secretariat of ECCAS represents a solid foundation for further strengthening and diversifying the partnership with the United Nations system as a whole.

To conclude, allow me to underscore the central role that the regional economic communities play in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peacebuilding and in strengthening security and governance in Africa. ECCAS is playing a leading role in this context and will continue to do so. Our ultimate wish is that United Nations and all bilateral and multilateral partners will continue to trust ECCAS, support it and enhance its cooperation with it in its various activities.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Allam-Mi for his briefing.

I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.30 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7719

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7719th meeting
Thursday, 16 June 2016, 10 a.m.
New York

President:	Mr. Delattre	(France)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Lucas
	China	Mr. Liu Jieyi
	Egypt	Mr. Mahmoud
	Japan	Mr. Okamura
	Malaysia	Mrs. Adnin
	New Zealand	Mr. Taula
	Russian Federation	Mr. Iliichev
	Senegal	Mr. Seck
	Spain	Mr. Oyarzun Marchesi
	Ukraine	Mr. Yelchenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Meek
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Uruguay	Mr. Bermúdez
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Graterol

Agenda

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2016/498)

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16-17710 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Mali

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2016/498)

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Mali to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome His Excellency Mr. Modibo Keita, Prime Minister of Mali, and I request the Protocol Officer to escort him to a seat at the Council table.

The Council is honoured by Mr. Keita's presence among us today.

Mr. Modibo Keita, Prime Minister of Mali, was escorted to a seat at the Council table.

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, to participate in this meeting.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I wish to draw the attention of Council members to document S/2016/498, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali.

I now give the floor to Mr. Annadif.

Mr. Annadif (*spoke in French*): I am particularly honoured and pleased to be here in the Council today, exactly five months after I assumed my functions at the head of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), on 15 January 2016, and three months after the Council's memorable mission to Mali on 4 and 5 March, when it visited Bamako, Mopti and Timbuktu.

This is therefore the first time that I am appearing before the Council in order to present the report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2016/498). I welcome this opportunity afforded me and I commend the Council, on behalf of the men and women of MINUSMA, who are working with determination day and night to execute the mission that the Council has entrusted to them in resolution 2227 (2015), adopted on 29 June 2015.

I welcome the presence here today of an important delegation from Mali, led by His Excellency Prime Minister Modibo Keita and including my dear friend Abdoulaye Diop, Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and African Integration.

Since the Council's visit to Mali last March, the evolution of the situation unfortunately remains worrying. Several factors justify that concern.

First, and as outlined in the report of the Secretary-General, one year after the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, it is clear that neither the signatories, much less the international mediation team, are satisfied with the pace of its implementation. This slowness, which is difficult to understand, is about to compromise the entire process, including the setting up of joint patrols and other security arrangements. While the Agreement is a package, for some time the debate has seemed to reduce it to the putting in place of interim administrations, which unfortunately are also slow in becoming operational. As such, we welcome the compromise reached among the Malian parties two days ago on the sidelines of the ninth meeting of the Agreement Monitoring Committee. MINUSMA remains fully committed on that matter, continuously using its good offices and other tools at its disposal, and is ready to support the immediate putting in place of interim authorities.

Secondly, as the Secretary-General states in his report, the security situation has deteriorated significantly in recent weeks. Although since its deployment, in 2013, MINUSMA has held the sad distinction of being the deadliest of the currently deployed United Nations missions, what has happened this year is even more serious and should challenge us to act. From February to May 2016 — a period of four months — 19 peacekeepers were killed due to terrorist actions, including 12 in the month of May alone. Adding to that the seven others who died from other causes, such as accidents and diseases, the toll rises to 26. And the total rises to 27 when we include the United Nations contractor who was killed on 31 May. The figures are even more distressing if added to the losses suffered in

the course of Operation Barkhane and those of Mali's defence and security forces and among Malian civilians.

As I have often said, many such losses could be avoided if our troops were better trained and equipped, especially when it comes to armoured personnel carriers. Moreover, the attack on a MINUSMA convoy in the area of Mopti on 29 May — the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers — serves to tragically illustrate that the terrorist threat is increasingly spreading to the centre and the south. That trend carries with it the threat of contagion, which must not be forgotten.

Since the recent attacks, MINUSMA has taken a number of steps to be more proactive and to improve efficiency and responsiveness. I understand the general skepticism and disillusionment in that regard, but, in view of the situation in 2012, there are many signs of hope. As highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General, there has been progress with regard to the peace process, even though, as I said moments ago, the pace of the Agreement's implementation suffers from slowness, which should be avoided. Allow me to mention three examples of that progress.

The first is the strict adherence to the ceasefire observed by all the Malian parties that signed on to the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. In addition, dialogue continues to be the preferred means among the parties.

The second example pertains to the continuing efforts by the Malian Government in the establishment of a solid legal and institutional framework for the Agreement's implementation. In that regard, the draft decree of 18 May on establishing the National Council for Security Sector Reform under the authority of the Prime Minister represents a significant advance from the perspective of reconstituting the security and armed forces. Decrees were also approved to set up other commissions, including on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR).

Finally, in terms of cantonment, about eight sites are nearing completion, which should allow for the start of the DDR process — a process that includes two other crucial dimensions, namely, the integration of former combatants and managing violent extremism.

Among many others, those positive elements provide a solid basis for moving forward. It is absolutely crucial to enhance mutual trust among the signatory parties, as that is a dimension that sometimes hinders implementation.

The weakness of the State in the north of the country and the lack of effective control over land by other signatory parties where they are present have given way to an increase in terrorism, organized crime, banditry and intercommunal tensions. The more we fall behind in implementing the Agreement and actually managing those challenges, the more we risk further weakening the peace process.

It would be desirable that the next MINUSMA mandate take into account the challenges I have just mentioned. There is a need for an enhanced posture for MINUSMA. Given the determination of the enemies of peace and the magnitude of the recent deadly attacks, the recommendations of the strategic review set out in the report of the Secretary-General are in line with that objective. As such, it is necessary to increase the capacity of both the force and the police in terms of personnel, equipment and air cover. Without those capabilities, which have bee repeatedly requested, we risk hindering and undermining the Mission; providing them will save lives. There is also a need to make more explicit the fact that the mandate of the Mission authorizes it to conduct proactive and preventive operations to fulfil its responsibilities in terms of protecting both civilians and its personnel. Beyond that, MINUSMA alone cannot resolve the whole host of Mali's security challenges. Only increasing the strength of Mali's defence and security forces will serve to meet that sovereign function, and hence the assistance requested in terms of support for the Malian forces. The restoration of State authority depends upon it.

However, that issue must be part of a regional strategy in which various initiatives, such as the Sahel Group of Five, the Nouakchott process, the Economic Community of West African States and others, are called on to play a more prominent role. The presence of Operation Barkhane on the ground strengthens such initiatives. The situation in Mali is affecting the region as a whole. Recent attacks in Côte d'Ivoire and Burkina Faso illustrate the fluidity of terrorist groups and the interdependence among countries in the fight against terrorism. In the face of this regional threat, we must strive to promote more effective coordination and to increasingly operate within a logic of synergies and resource sharing.

I cannot conclude without telling the Council that I remain optimistic, even if my optimism is measured. It should also be stressed that there is no alternative to peace. The status quo of neither peace nor war only benefits the enemies of peace. The presence here of a large delegation headed by the Prime Minister of Mali reassures us that the hardest part is behind us, although we must not forget that time is our greatest enemy.

Today it is clear that all Malians, beginning with the most sceptical, are increasingly taking ownership of the Agreement. A year ago the people of Kidal were protesting its signing. Today the same populations take to the streets of Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu to demand its prompt implementation. Similarly, the Malian people eagerly and hopefully await the new mandate that the Council will confer on MINUSMA.

The President: I thank Mr. Annadif for his briefing and his exemplary commitment.

I now give the floor to Prime Minister Keita.

Mr. Keita (Mali) (*spoke in French*): You, Mr. President, understand the great importance we attach to this meeting. My first words are to congratulate you for the outstanding manner in which you have been guiding the work of the Security Council since the beginning of the month and, above all — I repeat, above all — for the relevance of the items that you have included in the agenda of the Council. Mali congratulates France for its monthly presidency and welcomes in particular the fact that, under its enlightened leadership, the Security Council will in a few days proceed to renew the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Mali will always remember the date of 11 January 2013, when President François Hollande, responding favourably to the Malian authorities' request, authorized the deployment of Operation Serval, which made it possible to halt the advance of terrorist groups.

I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation for the excellent manner in which the Arab Republic of Egypt presided over the work of the Council during the month of April.

Allow me also to reiterate, on behalf of His Excellency Mr. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, the profound gratitude of the people and the Government of Mali to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, his Special Representative, Minister Mahamat Saleh Annadif and his predecessors, Mr. Mongi Hamdi and Mr. Bert Koenders, for their invaluable efforts in support of peace and stability in Mali.

The Security Council's numerous visits to Mali attest to the Organization's strong interest in Mali and its people. I sincerely thank the Council for such attention. I would like to express the gratitude of the people and the Government of Mali to the various countries, subregional, regional and international organizations, previous members of the mediation team, who are now members of the Monitoring Committee of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, which emerged from the Algiers process. Our appreciation also goes out to the countries that are active on the ground helping to restore peace and security in my country.

Many victims, civilian and military, national and foreign, have fallen on Malian territory. The toll of casualties, already heavy, as mentioned by the Special Representative, has worsened in recent months with the deterioration of the security situation. The month of May was particularly deadly for MINUSMA: just as the world was commemorating the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers, that cerulean blue was disrupted by sandstorms. This is an unacceptable situation. We reverently pay tribute to the memory of the victims, and we offer our heartfelt condolences to their families and to their countries.

On behalf of the people and the Government of Mali, we welcome with great gratitude the invaluable contribution of MINUSMA to our country's stabilization process. And we express our profound appreciation to the United Nations and the troop-contributing countries.

The delegation of Mali takes note of the report (S/2016/498) of the Secretary-General under consideration and thanks Mr. Mahamat Saleh Annadif, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of MINUSMA, for his briefing, which focused on the implementation of the Agreement and the recommendations to the Security Council with regard to renewing the MINUSMA mandate. We welcome the fact that the Secretary-General recalls the progress made towards implementing the Agreement. In that regard, we thank the Secretary-General for the tribute he rendered to President Keita, as well as for his leadership and his firm, total commitment to the implementation of the peace agreement in its entirety.

As we commemorate the first anniversary of the signing of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, we are pleased to note that hostilities between the Government and the signatory movements have ceased, as the Secretary-General recalled. While a few misunderstandings might have arisen between the signatory movements, they managed to resolve those disputes through intra- and inter-communal meetings. That reconciliation process should be supported by all actors. It has been established, as the Secretary-General's report thankfully underscores, that the Government of Mali has made enormous efforts that eloquently illustrate its determination to honour its all commitments.

For our part, we will focus on two key issues emerging from the report of the Secretary-General, namely, political and institutional reforms and defence and security matters.

In the area of political and institutional reforms, during the consideration of the previous report (S/2016/281) of the Secretary-General, on 5 April (see S/PV.7665), the delegation of Mali informed Council members that, on 31 March, the National Assembly of Mali had adopted a law a law modifying the territorial municipalities code. As members are aware, the law, initiated by the Government of Mali, is the legal provision that paves the way for the establishment of the interim authorities.

The compliance of the provisions of the law with the Malian Constitution was decided by a competent court, thereby ending all forms of dissent. The President of the Republic signed the law, and the Government adopted an implementing decree. In that respect, I must point out that there must be no lingering doubt about the willingness of the Government of Mali to bring the process to fruition. While there were disagreements with respect to interpretation and approaches on how best to advance the process, the Malian parties remained Malian parties.

Fortunately, as the Secretary-General has recalled, the Government of Mali and the signatory movements agreed a few days ago to a memorandum of understanding that sets the timing for critical operations, including for the setting up of the Operational Coordination Mechanism in the regions, the appointment of interim authorities, the redeployment of the Administration and the delivery of basic social services. That is an important step forward.

The process of revising the Constitution is under way, and a review commission was set up with the task of ensuring that the provisions of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali accord with it.

As Council members know, the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission was set up in an inclusive manner and is already operational.

With respect to matters of defence and security — an important point — the implementation of the Agreement must be comprehensive and complete, which is why it is imperative to move forward on other important and urgent issues, such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and the quartering of troops. The Government has provided the Operational Coordination Mechanism with vehicles for joint patrols and is waiting for the conditions to be met by all parties — and I mean by all parties — to achieve success in the operation. The Government has played its part in that regard.

We would remind the Council that, in addition to political, institutional, security and defence measures, the Government of Mali has continued its development activities on the ground, in places where security conditions permit it, particularly through projects and programmes already under way, such as an emergency programme for the revival of development in the North and programme for reconstruction and economic recovery. The Government of Mali has also developed a specific strategy for development of the northern regions, which includes a plan for implementing the Agreement that allows — and must allow — regular follow-up on all its commitments.

The establishment of a lasting peace in Mali naturally needs the efforts of all parties involved in the process — the signatories — as well as the international community. For its part, the Government of Mali has fulfilled all its obligations. Never has its good faith objectively failed, and its commitments, including in keeping the peace, have always gone in the direction of the fulfilment of the Agreement. Moreover, the actions of the Government were the subject of a memorandum submitted to the Security Council. The memorandum eloquently illustrates the determination of the Malian authorities to effectively and comprehensively implement the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.

I therefore appeal to the other Malian parties for greater commitment and greater effort, at a time when we are at a turning point, when our people, having

suffered enough, are still unfortunately having to wait to enjoy the dividends of peace. Each day of delay in the implementation of the Agreement is obviously one more day won by the enemies of peace, those who have sworn to see the peace process fail, who have bet against the peace process. We must remember this.

I appeal to the international community, through the Agreement Monitoring Committee, to exercise its role of guaranteeing that the parties respect their commitments by assigning responsibilities in accordance with article 54 of the Agreement.

The dismantling as soon as possible of bases and checkpoints by all of the Agreement's signatory movements is a sign of goodwill and reflects effective compliance with the requirements of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation. Furthermore, the drafting and transmission of lists of combatants within a specified period of time — lists that we are still waiting for — will allow for joint patrols to become operational and for the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process and the quartering of troops to begin.

All that is expected to make it easier for the interim authorities to work, for basic social services to be provided and for the reconfigured Malian defence and security forces to be deployed throughout the national territory. The return, resettlement and reintegration of refugees and displaced persons remains a concern. The safety of people and property is at stake. We would like to express our deep gratitude to the friendly, fraternal countries that have, in the pure tradition of African hospitality, generously hosted Malians on their soil.

In resolution 2227 (2015), the Security Council considers applying sanctions to all those who are a threat to the implementation of the Agreement and who do not set themselves apart from terrorist groups. It is useful and urgent that those provisions be implemented. But the Government of Mali hopes that, with deep involvement by all stakeholders, such extreme measures will not be necessary.

I congratulate the Agreement Monitoring Committee for its efforts aimed at overcoming differences and allowing progress to continue unimpeded. The Government hopes that the plan of action to implement the Agreement, developed by the National Coordinating Committee and communicated to all stakeholders, including the Agreement Monitoring Committee, is an effective assessment tool.

The Government of Mali welcomes the unanimity that is emerging with respect to the hostile nature of the environment in which MINUSMA is operating and the need to make adjustments to change its situation. There has been an increasing number of terrorist attacks, which have grown in complexity. Unfortunately, MINUSMA peacekeepers have become a prime target for terrorists. On behalf of the people and the Government of Mali, I reiterate my expression of gratitude to the troop-contributing countries for all the sacrifices they have made in order to bring about a final settlement of the crisis in my country.

My briefing today should challenge and invite us to reflect on the need to take into account the environment and the context in which peacekeeping operations are deployed in order to enable the Blue Helmets to achieve their mission of saving lives and restoring and stabilizing peace. The Government of Mali welcomes the Secretary-General's recommendations on strengthening MINUSMA's operational capabilities. We welcome in particular the fact that MINUSMA's mandate will provide support for Malian authorities as they strive to stabilize the main towns, especially in the northern regions, in order to remove threats and take active steps to prevent armed elements from returning to those areas. In that regard, as the Special Representative mentioned, Mali's defence and security forces provide the basis for the restoration of State authority throughout the national territory. Mali's armed forces, who are on the front line in the fight against terrorism, are and remain the first legitimate bulwark in protecting the Malian people and our national borders. They deserve the support of the international community.

In general, the Government of Mali believes that if the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in paragraphs 45 to 55 of his report are endorsed by the Security Council, it would allow MINUSMA to carry out its stabilization and protection-of-civilians mission. While taking note of the recommendation of Secretary-General for an increase in Mission personnel, I recall that the Government of Mali has always felt that MINUSMA's effectiveness must also be ensured via strengthening its operational capacities, which, in our view, requires a stronger and more active position; a redefinition of the rules of engagement; support for the armed forces of Mali, accompanied by operational coordination; and support for regional counter-terrorism initiatives, including those of the Sahel Group of Five,

the Economic Community of West African States and the African Union.

It is a platitude, but terrorism is a global threat that concerns all countries. To effectively fight this phenomenon, we must coordinate our efforts. We would like to express our sympathy and compassion to all the peoples of the world who have been affected and who have suffered greatly as a result of acts of terrorism, unjustifiable in any form.

Given the persistence of the terrorist threat in Mali and in the region, ECOWAS leaders, at a meeting in Dakar on 4 June on the occasion of the forty-ninth Ordinary Session of the Heads of State Meeting, reiterated their commitment to respect the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of the State of Mali. The Heads of State and Government expressed their concern about the deterioration of the security situation in Mali, which has been marked by a resurgence in terrorist attacks targeting the Malian defence and security forces, the United Nations forces, the French forces of Operation Barkhane and civilians. This situation is a serious threat to the entire subregion. Also at the conference, the Heads of State and Government urged the Security Council to take the necessary measures to strengthen MINUSMA's mandate and provide it with the appropriate means and equipment to adapt it to the security context, which threatens peace and security throughout the region and which has genuine potential for spreading.

We are pleased, after having listened to the briefing by the Under-Secretary-General, to note that this decision by the Heads of State and Government of ECOWAS dovetails with the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the issue. We hope that the Security Council will support the idea of redeploying the defence and security forces throughout the national territory once the interim authorities have been put in place and in compliance with the mechanisms provided for in the Agreement on Peace. The importance of such redeployment not only complies with all United Nations resolutions, which rightly recall the primary responsibility of the Government of Mali when it comes to security and protecting civilians, but it is also an essential condition for the effective return of the Administration and basic social services throughout the country. In that regard, the next mandate should authorize friendly forces, namely, those of MINUSMA, to support that process and ensure that the requirements of human rights and international humanitarian law be taken into account.

I would like to recall that the Secretary-General has on previous occasions called our attention to the need to uphold human rights in the context of the conflict in Mali. With respect to human rights violations, I am happy to announce that the Malian Minister of Justice and Human Rights has established, together with MINUSMA's Human Rights Division, a monthly dialogue mechanism. The mechanism, involving the Minister of Justice and MINUSMA in Bamako, will make it possible to clarify many situations and dispel many misunderstandings. However, I assure the Council that the Government of Mali is fully committed to the defending and promoting human rights. I take this opportunity to ask that all appropriate measures be taken to enable the diligent implementation of an international commission of inquiry, which we have asked the United Nations for since July 2014.

I thank Mali's partners for their engagement and support during the international conference for Mali's recovery and development, jointly organized by the Government of Mali and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on 22 October 2015 in Paris. We hope that the pledges of support will be fulfilled so that the necessary funds for the economic, social and cultural development of Mali can be mobilized on time. It would also be useful to mobilize the necessary funds for the smooth functioning of the Agreement Monitoring Committee in Bamako to allow it to fulfil its commitments.

For its part, the Government of Mali will continue to honour its commitments, and in particular all its commitments within the framework of the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. That is a reflection of the personal determination of the President Keita, who has provided every opportunity to the peace and reconciliation process and has just appointed a High Representative for the Implementation of the Agreement. The person he appointed, Ambassador Diagouraga, who is with us in the Chamber. That is a reflection of the importance that the highest Malian authority attaches to the implementation of the Agreement.

I would like to recall the gravity of the security situation in Mali, the deterioration of which undoubtedly poses a threat to all our States. I have the pleasure to announce to all those who believed that there were

delays in the implementation of the Agreement that the signatories, movements and Government adopted by consensus a protocol of understanding, which will make it possible to establish the interim authorities to ensure the return of basic social services and the Administration and to contribute to the implementation of the Agreement. This took place just a few days ago.

In doing this, yes, there are delays, but it is beyond the control of the Government. For example, we focused the entire process on the interim authorities. And it was said that the Government of Mali was taking a long time to set up them. Everyone knows that we are a democratic country and that we had to respect that democracy when the Malian opposition attacked the draft law in court. We had to do that; we had to wait; and we had to respect the opposition, as it was acting within its capacity. That delay was was implied to signal that my Government had no desire to move forward.

Today hope has been restored. The Under-Secretary-General has said that he is optimistic, adding that it is measured optimism. He could add as well that it is optimism capable of overcoming resistance and meeting everyone's expectations.

For my final comments, I would like to express once again the gratitude of the people and the Government of Mali to the regional, subregional and international organizations and to all the countries that continue to provide their support to, and their solidarity with, the people of Mali. Long live the United Nations in the service of peace in the world. Long live international solidarity.

The President (*spoke in French*): I would like to very warmly thank Mr. Keita, Prime Minister of Mali, for his very important statement and for being present with us today.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.7720

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 June 2016

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 7720th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 21 June 2016, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"On 21 June 2016, the Security Council, pursuant to annex II, sections A and B of resolution 1353 (2001), held its 7720th meeting in private with the troop- and police-contributing countries to the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force.

"The President invited Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to participate in the meeting in accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

"The Security Council and the troop- and police-contributing countries heard a briefing by Mr. Ladsous.

"Members of the Council, Mr. Ladsous and representatives of participating contributing countries had an exchange of views."

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United Nations S/PV.7721

Security Council

Seventy-first year

Provisional

7721st meeting
Tuesday, 21 June 2016, 11 a.m.
New York

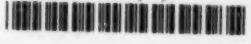
President:	Mr. Delattre	(France)
Members:	Angola	Mr. Gimolieca
	China	Mr. Wu Haitao
	Egypt	Mr. Aboulatta
	Japan	Mr. Okamura
	Malaysia	Mr. Ibrahim
	New Zealand	Mr. Van Bohemen
	Russian Federation	Mr. Safronkov
	Senegal	Mr. Barro
	Spain	Mr. Gasso Matoses
	Ukraine	Mr. Vitrenko
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Wilson
	United States of America	Ms. Power
	Uruguay	Mr. Rosselli
	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	Mr. Méndez Gruterol

Agenda

The situation in the Middle East

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the translation of speeches delivered in other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. *Corrections* should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-0506 (verbatimrecords@un.org). Corrected records will be reissued electronically on the Official Document System of the United Nations (http://documents.un.org).

16-18565 (E)



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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in the Middle East

The President (*spoke in French*): In accordance with rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite the representative of Yemen to participate in this meeting.

In accordance with rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure, I invite Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, to participate in this meeting.

On behalf of the Council, I welcome Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed, who is joining today's meeting via video-teleconference from Kuwait City.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda.

I give the floor to Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

Mr. Ould Cheikh Ahmed (*spoke in French*): At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your country's accession to the presidency of the Security Council. I am sincerely grateful for the ongoing support provided by you and the members of the Security Council.

(*spoke in Arabic*)

I am grateful for this opportunity to brief the Security Council once again on progress in the Kuwait talks and on the prospects for Yemen's return to peace. Today, I am providing this briefing from Kuwait, two months after the launch of the peace talks, which have been characterized by a positive spirit at times, and also by a certain apprehension. Progress has been made in some cases, while further efforts are still needed in others.

Over the previous period of the talks, the parties unanimously agreed on the need to reach a peaceful solution to put an end to the conflict in Yemen. The parties have met directly in several sessions and agreed on solid foundations to build on. A number of prisoners and detainees, including children, have been released. The cessation of hostilities has allowed humanitarian aid to reach areas that were previously not accessible.

Participants in the Kuwait peace talks have held a number of important sessions characterized by an extraordinary openness, and they have discussed the most sensitive issues, including military withdrawals, security arrangements, the hand-over of weapons, sensitive political issues, ways to improve the economic and humanitarian situation, and the release of prisoners and detainees.

After intense talks with both parties, during which I listened carefully to their respective views and concerns, I presented a road map outlining a practical plan to put an end the conflict in Yemen and return the country to a peaceful political process. The road map provides for the implementation of the security arrangements specified in resolution 2216 (2015) and the establishment of a national unity Government that would ensure the delivery of basic services and address the recovery of the Yemeni economy.

According to the proposed road map, the national unity Government would also be responsible for preparing a political dialogue to define the remaining steps for a comprehensive political solution, including an electoral law, the mandates of the institutions that would oversee the transition period, and the completion of the draft constitution. It is essential that this political dialogue also find ways to ensure the more effective participation of women, young people and representatives from the south of the country in determining Yemen's future. I note that the road map also addresses the need to establish national and international mechanisms to monitor and support the implementation of an agreement between the parties.

The delegations have responded positively to the proposals, but have not yet reached agreement on the sequencing of the different steps provided for in the road map. When would the Government of national unity be created? What if particular provisions of the road map were implemented and others were not? These are important concerns that need to be addressed carefully and wisely in order to ensure a comprehensive solution with solid foundations. I look forward to the support of Member States of the region and the Security Council to encourage the parties to overcome their differences quickly, strengthen their common ground and demonstrate good faith. Yemen is on the path to an agreement and each day of delay needlessly extends the country's agony.

The cessation of hostilities that was declared on 10 April 2015 has continued to provide relief from violence in many parts of Yemen. The de-escalation and coordination committee, which is based in Kuwait, and the local disengagement councils have continued to play an important role in de-escalating outbreak of violence and reducing violations of the cessation of hostilies. Unfortunately, the work of the committees has not been able to end serious violations, such as the shelling of a popular market in Ta'izz that resulted in 18 civilian deaths and dozens of injuries. In addition, there have been violations in Al-Jawf, Ta'izz and the areas bordering Saudi Arabia. I encourage the Security Council to call on all parties to fully cease all hostilities, respect their obligations under international humanitarian law, and protect civilians.

My team has pursued several initiatives to support and incentivize the members of the de-escalation and coordination committee and the disengagement councils, with the support of the Kingdom ofSaudi Arabia, the European Union, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Turkey and the Netherlands. This has included training workshops to build the capacity of members of the councils in several governorates. This training will be repeated and broadened over the coming weeks to cover all remaining disengagement council members. I note that Prime Minister Mr. Ahmed Obaid Mubarek Bin-Dagher and members of his Cabinet retuned to Aden on 4 June in order to support the resumption of basic services and the reinforcement of security and stability. His efforts enjoy our support. I also acknowledge the ongoing work to counter terrorism in the south, which has led to a relative improvement of security.

While progress in the Kuwait talks raises hope for the future, we must be mindful of the severe decline in the living conditions throughout the country. The failure to provide basic services over the past year has had a devastating impact. High temperatures and the lack of electricity in Aden, Hudaydah and elsewhere have exacerbated the health crisis in these areas and caused a number of preventable deaths. In this regard, I welcome the efforts of the United Arab Emirates to urgently provide fuel and emergency power to Aden.

In recent months, the Yemeni economy has seen a dangerous deterioration. Since early 2016, Yemen's gross domestic product has shrunk by more than 30 per cent. To address this alarming situation, the Central Bank has continued to ensure the import of such basic commodities as rice, wheat and medicines. Such support will become more difficult in the weeks ahead , however, leading to a deterioration in the living standards of Yemenis, especially vulnerable groups. In this regard, my Office is coordinating with the Government of Yemen, the Central Bank and certain Member States to fmd quick solutions to the rapidly deteriorating economic situation. I recently met with the Minister of Finance and the Governor of the Central Bank, who are playing a very constructive role, and we discussed practical initiatives that can be rapidly implemented in order to help prevent the economic and humanitarian situation in the country from deteriorating further.

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is alarming and there are credible warnings from humanitarian organizations of a humanitarian catastrophe should the situation not be addressed forthwith. I welcome the release of prisoners that took place at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, based on the recommendations of the committee for prisoners and detainees established within the framework of the Kuwai talks, which communicates data on the names of the prisoners released. In this regard, I welcome the release by the Government of Yemen of 54 children to their families, in coordination with UNICEF and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Furthermore, more than 400 detainees, including prisoners of war, have been released by Ansar Allah in recent weeks. I emphasize the obligation of the parties to immediately and unconditionally release all children and to prioritize the release of vulnerable detainees, such as the elderly, sick and wounded, as well as those individuals identified in resolution 2216 (2015).

On the other hand, the limited release of prisoners has been accompanied by the continued and systematic persecution of civilians, including journalists and civil society activists in Yemen. These acts of intimidation and harassment are clear violations of international human rights instruments. I call on all parties to halt these acts and to fulfil their obligations under these instruments.

In short, the general atmosphere remains positive, although difficulties persist that need to be addressed. The Kuwait talks have progressed slowly yet constructively over the past two months. We count on the commitment of the parties and appeal to them to speed up their negotiations in order to reach a comprehensive settlement as soon as possible.

The support of the Security Council has been a key factor in supporting progress in the talks. The parties have received the international community's clear and consistent message that a solution must be reached here in Kuwait. I appreciate the encouragement and support of Member States in reaching a negotiated and peaceful end to the conflict, and remain profoundly grateful to the General Secretariat of the Gulf Cooperation Council and the League of Arab States. I also extend my sincere and utmost gratitude to the Amir of Kuwait, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for his generous and steadfast support, and for the staunch efforts of the Government and the people of Kuwait in hosting the talks, as well as for all the facilities they continue to provide. We expect nothing less from that State, which has always sponsored initiatives in the service of peace and humankind.

Yemenis are watching the developments in the peace talks in Kuwait with great hope and impatience. The people of Yemen have experienced the indignity and suffering of war for too long. I am confident that the unprecedented international support for the ongoing process will encourage the different parties to overcome obstacles and difficulties and reach a comprehensive political agreement. Over the past weeks, the delegations of the Government of Yemen, the General Popular Congress and Ansar Allah have demonstrated a true commitment to make peace, as well as political wisdom in the negotiations, which did not shy away from broaching sensitive and complicated issues. We have to recognize that any agreement that emerges from the Kuwait peace talks will do so in a very difficult context, and its implementation will pose a serious challenge. Yemenis should listen to their patriotic and political conscience and ensure implementation for the sake of the national interest.

Within the next few days, I will provide the Yemeni parties with a written proposal for the upcoming stage. The peace agreement we seek will restore security and stability for Yemen and will constitute a sign of hope for the Middle East, which is beset by a series of regional and international disputes. The parties to the negotiations now have the responsibility to find a political solution for the pending issues, which mainly concern the timeline and the sequencing of the different steps. I call on all parties to show political courage and make their national interests prevail by making the necessary concessions to reach a comprehensive agreement that safeguards the safety and security of Yemen and its citizens and ensures the well-being of the country.

The President (*spoke in French*): I thank Mr. Ahmed for his briefing.

I now give the floor to the representative of Yemen.

Mr. Alyemany (Yemen) (*spoke in Arabic*): Allow me to begin, Sir, by warmly congratulating you on your assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for this month. We also very much appreciate the skill with which the Ambassador of Egypt led the Council during the previous month. I would like to thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his teadfast efforts in the process in Kuwait. We await his visit in the next few days to lend greater impetus to the efforts to establish lasting peace in Yemen. The Government of Yemen also expresses its gratitude to the Emir, the Government and the people of Kuwait for their outstanding efforts to promote peace in Yemen. Those efforts will remain etched in the memory of future generations of Yemenis.

Since the announcement by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General, on 18 April, of the date for negotiations, in spite of the circumstances surrounding the negotiations, the Government of Yemen has actively committed itself to furthering the efforts of Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed. In the next few days, we will examine all the documents submitted by the Special Envoy in accordance with the Kuwait plan. That plan is based on the constant position of the United Nations on the crisis in Yemen, namely, that it be based on the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its associated implementation mechanism as well as the relevant resolutions of the Council, in particular resolution 2216 (2015).

We have great faith in the people of Yemen and in our Constitution, as well an awareness of our legal responsibility, in the face of the suffering of our people, to put an end to the tragedy, which has been taking place for a year and a half and is the result of a coup d'état against the legal constitutional Government. That has led to significant destruction and diminished our country's resources, thereby setting back our development.

Over the past few days, we have considered the ideas put forward by the Special Envoy, in particular with regard to withdrawal, the need to release all detainees and re-establishing State authority so that the political process can resume on the basis of the general framework. We have also considered the five major

points on which the Kuwait negotiations are based. Those negotiations have faced serious significant challenges that have to do with the lack of seriousness demonstrated by those who carried out the coup d'état. They must renounce the unilateral measures that they continue to undertake.

What we have proposed in Kuwait amounts to a path to lasting peace, not half measures, which could lead to a resumption of the crisis in Yemen and result in the kinds of risks that could threaten the existence of our country and stability in the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula. The road map must include the following elements.

There is a need to withdraw heavy weapons and return them to State authority in all areas of the country. The Houthi militias must withdraw and rejoin the relevant military and security institutions. All measures adopted in the constitutional statement following the coup d'état must be rescinded. And State institutions must be fully re-established. Those are the preconditions for expanding State authority and resuming the political process that the Houthi coup d'état disrupted, so that the transitional period can resume and we can hold elections to establish a federal State and usher in a new Yemen.

The peace to which we aspire would mean an end to the destructive war that has impacted our people. From the moment the negotiations in Kuwait began, we have called for a full cessation of hostilities in all of Yemen's provinces. Since 10 April, we have sought to promote the work of the De-escalation and Coordination Committee. However, the other side has continued to wage war without pause and to carry out assaults on all fronts, while the Houthi militias have continued their attacks in the southern provinces.

On 3 June, I sent the Secretary-General a request for intervention on behalf of the Government of Yemen to counter the massacres carried out by the Houthi and pro-Saleh militias at the public market in Ta'izz, where 60 women and children were killed. The war criminals, who killed women, children and the elderly in Ta'izz, will be prosecuted under national and international law. The perpetrators of these crimes include General Abdullah Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, the military commander of the Houthi militias; Brigadier General Hamoud Ahmed Dahmash, head of the Twenty-Second Armoured Brigade of the Republican Guard, General Zakaria Al-Muta'h, Commander of the Republican Guard; and General Hamoud Al-Harithi, Commander of Central Security Forces.

Since their capture of Sana'a, rebel forces have worked systematically to destroy the national economy by wasting approximately $5 billion in foreign currency, which they stole from the reserves of the Central Bank, to support their criminal actions against our people. The rebel forces tried to manipulate the derivatives prices for oil in order to make money on the black market. We have undeniable evidence of the earnings collected by the militias, as well as of the illegal funds they obtained by using trucks to transport oil under the pretext of supporting the war effort.

With regard to the fight against terrorism, in May and June the Houthi and pro-Saleh militias released some 52 Al-Qaida elements who had been incarcerated in national prisons. Recently, the remaining prisoners, terrorist elements who had already been sentenced to prison, were also released. This clearly illustrates the close links between Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula and the Houthi and pro-Saleh militias. This is particularly troubling since Al-Qaida controlled the port of Al-Mukalla and was involved in the smuggling of weapons and oil to benefit the militias. The Yemeni Government, together with the coalition forces and Yemen's partners, coordinated the fight against terrorism in order to carry out fatal attacks against Al-Qaida in Al-Mukalla and all other positions in which Al-Qaida was deployed in the southern province of Yemen. The Yemeni Government will continue to pursue Al-Qaida and Da'esh forces and will provide the legal evidence of the link between those forces and the terrorists.

In conclusion, I would like to draw the Council's attention to the suffering of the activists, journalists and politicians who were detained by the Houthi militias in certain regions under their control. The militias reject the freedom of expression and their prisons and detention centres are overflowing with thousands of prisoners who are subjected to bodily and psychological torture. Many families do not know where their sons are detained or the status of their health, which constitutes a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. In a gesture of good faith and in order to comply with the request of the Special Envoy, during the month of Ramadan the Government released some victims. We call on the Council to continue to put pressure on the militias to release Major-General Mahmoud

al-Subaihi, Minister of Defence of Yemen, and all individuals under house arrest or arbitrarily detained, in accordance with sub-paragraph (f) of paragraph 1 of resolution 2216 (2015).

Lastly, we reaffirm our determination to work towards achieving a lasting peace in Yemen, based on the negotiations in Kuwait, which are being conducted by the Special Envoy. We would also like to thank the Gulf Cooperation Council and in particular the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its historic position in support of Yemen.

The President (*spoke in French*): I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion on this subject.

The meeting rose at 11.30 a.m.